

REMARKS

The claims in the application are 27-53.

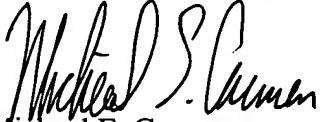
Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 27-53 presented herein correspond to Claims 1-26 appended to the International Preliminary Examination Report, with the following revisions. Independent Claim 27 has been amended to define over Reference D2 (EP 0 065 934) cited in the International Preliminary Examination Report. Additionally, the claims have been amended to eliminate all multiple dependencies. In this regard, Claims 27-44 respectively correspond to Claims 1-18, with Claims 45 and 46 corresponding to recitation found in Claim 19 and Claims 47-53 respectively corresponding to Claims 20-26.

The specification has been amended for formal reasons. Additionally, please insert the English abstract found on the cover page of published PCT application WO 2004/050754 A2 at the appropriate location.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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